



ALBERT E. JENNER JR.
... impeachment role

GOP Picks Jenner as Counsel

By Richard L. Lyons
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Albert E. Jenner Jr., a Chicago lawyer who has taken on a series of challenging public service assignments over the past 20 years, was named by House Judiciary Committee Republicans yesterday as their chief legal adviser in the inquiry as to whether President Nixon should be impeached.

One Republican member, Rep. Tom Railsback (Ill.), said Jenner's reputation in legal circles is so high that his legal advice either way "will make it easier for us to vote either for or against impeachment."

After a two-hour meeting of 10 senior members of the committee yesterday, the congressmen who had got off to a partisan start on their impeachment inquiry two months ago appeared agreed on at least one thing—that they have two top professional staff men who will help them seek the facts as to the President's involvement in Watergate or other acts that could justify his removal from office.

Chief counsel John Doar, a Republican who was assistant deputy attorney general for civil rights in the Kennedy administration, impressed Republicans as a nonpartisan professional as he gave them a progress report on staff work since he

took over two weeks ago. Democrats appeared equally impressed with Jenner's credentials as a top-flight lawyer. Liberals applauded his credentials as a fighter for civil liberties.

"I feel we are better equipped to seek the truth now," said Railsback.

Chairman Peter W. Rodino (D-N.J.) said after the closed meeting that he hopes the committee will be able to complete its work and report to the House by the latter part of April.

Rodino said the committee will ask the House when it reconvenes Jan. 21 to give

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it power to subpoena persons and documents for the inquiry. The committee's subpoena power does not now extend to impeachment proceedings, he said.

The chairman also said there has been no decision on whether public hearings will be held. Earlier there had been some discussion of holding public hearings on the question of what constitutes an impeachable offense. This was not discussed yesterday, and several members said this must be a personal decision by each member.

Another member said Rodino announced at the closed meeting that any staff member who leaks information of the inquiry will be discharged. The staff is working on the second floor of the Congressional Hotel on Capitol Hill under tight security that keeps out unauthorized persons.

Doar said after the meeting that he told the committee his investigation to date has consisted of assembling information already compiled by the Senate Watergate committee and the federal courts here or otherwise put on the public record. Once this task has been completed, the committee must decide what further information, if any, should be developed, he said.

Doar has a staff of about 20 lawyers at work and plans to hire about 10 more.

Still to be settled are arrangements for the committee to obtain and maintain confidentiality of informa-

tion held by Watergate Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski for presentation to the Watergate grand jury. Doar said he has met twice with Jaworski, and that while arrangements have not yet been worked out there is no dispute between them.

Jenner, who appeared with Doar, Rodino and some other committee members at a news conference, praised Doar as a "very able and conscientious lawyer" and said of the staff work: "This is a joint effort. There is no controversy on the professional staff."

Jenner, 66, had been one of a handful of lawyers considered for Doar's post, but turned it down on grounds that he did not want to take on such an assignment on a fulltime basis. He accepted the post as minority counsel when it was offered by committee Republicans, because it will be only about a half-time job during the early stages.

Jenner, a Republican, helped root out corruption in Illinois state government as a special assistant state attorney general during the 1950s. He was a senior counsel to the Warren Commission that investigated the 1963 assassination of President Kennedy, and was a member of President Johnson's Commission on Causes and Prevention of Violence in 1968.

As chairman of the American Bar Association's committee on the federal judiciary, Jenner led the fight against Senate confirmation as unqualified of President Johnson's nomination of Francis X. Morrissey, a Kennedy family friend, to be a U.S. District Court judge. The nomination was finally shelved at the request of Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.).

Jenner also led a long and successful fight against attempts of the House Un-American Activities Committee to convict Dr. Jeremiah Stamler, a Chicago heart specialist, for contempt of Congress for refusal to testify at HUAC's investigation of Communist activities in Chicago.

Jenner is a former president of the American College of Trial Lawyers and is now chairman of the ABA's section on individual rights and responsibilities.